

City of Beverly, Massachusetts

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE February 17, 2022

Contact: Darlene Wynne, Director of Planning dwynne@beverlyma.gov 978-605-2341

RE: Announcing an Expanded Route for Cape Ann Transit Authority (CATA) Shuttle in Beverly

BEVERLY, MA – Beginning Monday, February 21, the Cape Ann Transportation Authority's (CATA) Beverly Commuter Shuttle bus (aka the "Yellow Line") will begin a new and expanded route in Beverly that better serves more Beverly residents, specifically those who do not have access to cars or other transit lines. Improving access to public transportation citywide has been a priority of Mayor Cahill's Administration and is a Goal in the City's recently adopted Master Plan. Planning Director,



Darlene Wynne, City Councilor Todd Rotondo, and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Director Abu Tobbin have been working with CATA over the past year to refine the new route.

"The Cape Ann Transportation Authority is an important partner for the City," said Mayor Michael Cahill. "Many of our residents rely on the shuttle to grocery shop, go to work, and go to medical appointments. This route change will help greatly by providing neighborhoods that previously have not been served, access to affordable groceries and medical providers."

Specifically, the new route adds stops in Apple Village at the end of Trask Lane, at all Beverly Housing Authority properties, and at or near all senior housing developments. Stops were also added at Market Basket (Danvers), Shaw's (North Beverly), and the new North Shore Crossing plaza, in addition to the existing supermarkets served. While the new route is longer from start to finish, there are more opportunities to stop at key destinations, such as the Beverly Depot and downtown Beverly, the Cummings Center, and Beverly Hospital. Due to very limited ridership and significant added mileage, CATA no longer provides service to Beverly Farms.

A survey was conducted last spring of existing riders and potential riders to better understand where ridership patterns and what additions would entice future riders to use the service. What many people don't realize is that the CATA Shuttle is available to everyone in Beverly – and it's not just for shopping. Having more residents utilizing public transit means reducing congestion on the roads and increasing accessing to all communities.

CATA Administrator Felicia Webb said, "The Cape Ann Transportation Authority is looking forward to starting the new Beverly Shuttle route for the City of Beverly. The new route will meet the needs of customers by continuing to serve key destinations while adding new destinations and service to transit dependent populations. CATA is appreciative of Mayor Cahill and his dedicated team for their initiative in proposing to change the route and working with CATA to develop the new service."

The CATA Shuttle is subsidized by the City of Beverly and the MBTA's Suburban Bus Program, allowing us to keep rates extremely low. The Shuttle costs \$0.50 cents per ride for the general population and \$0.25 cents per ride for seniors (60+) with a valid ID card and persons with disabilities. The Shuttle is wheelchair accessible. A monthly pass is available for \$8.00 per month and can be picked up at the Beverly Planning Department, City Hall, 3rd Floor. Route schedules/maps are available at City Hall. The Shuttle is also an on-demand service, so you can flag the bus down or call and request a pick-up, which the driver will accommodate within the normal route.

Improving public transit positively impacts everyone in Beverly. A good public transit system improves access to community resources, healthcare, employment, and recreational activities for all ages. We hope you'll take a ride!

